NIGHTMARE IN SCARLET! 1 of 3
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MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WEB OF SCARLET SPIDER
THE FURY OF FIRESTAR!

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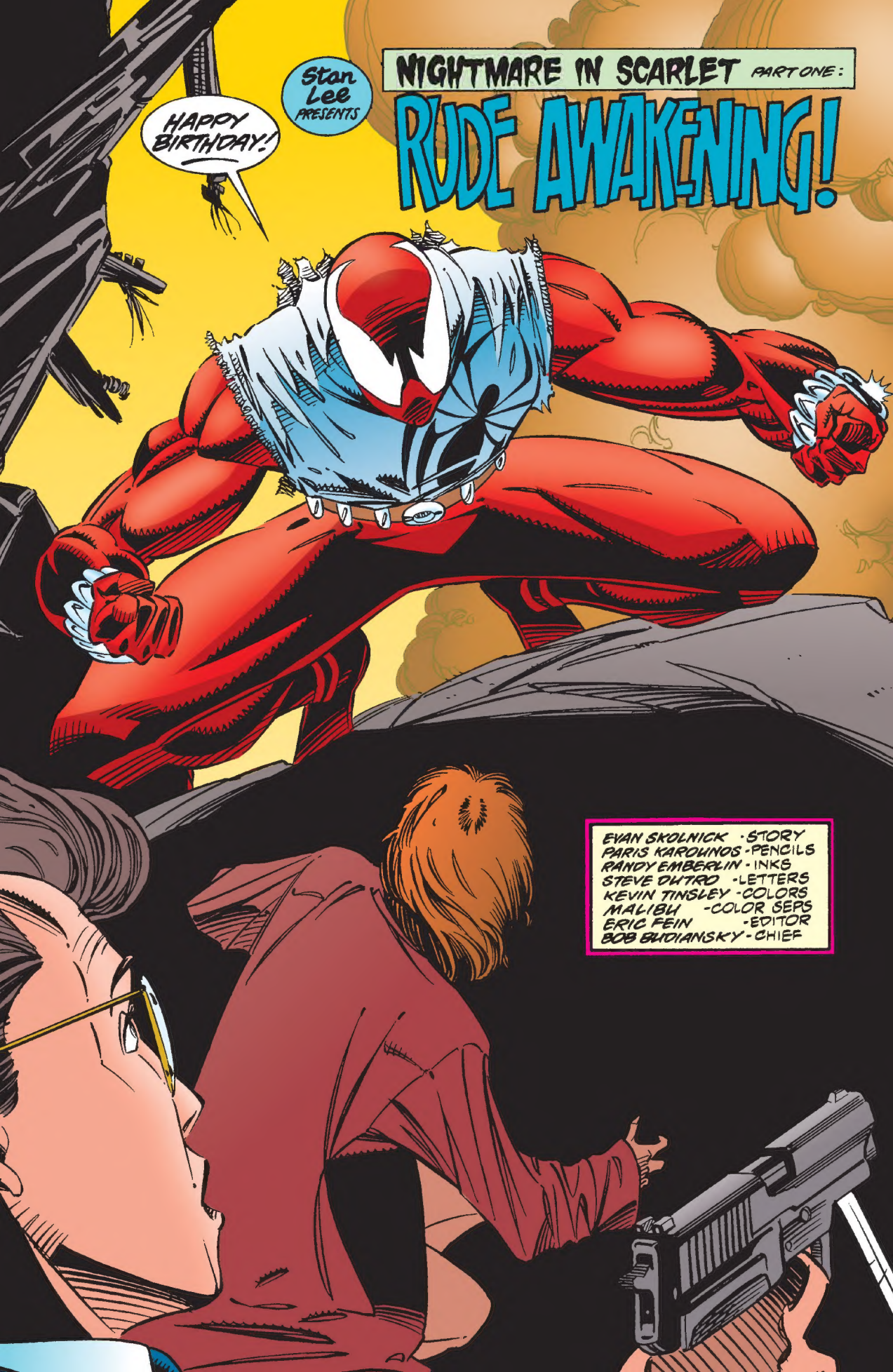
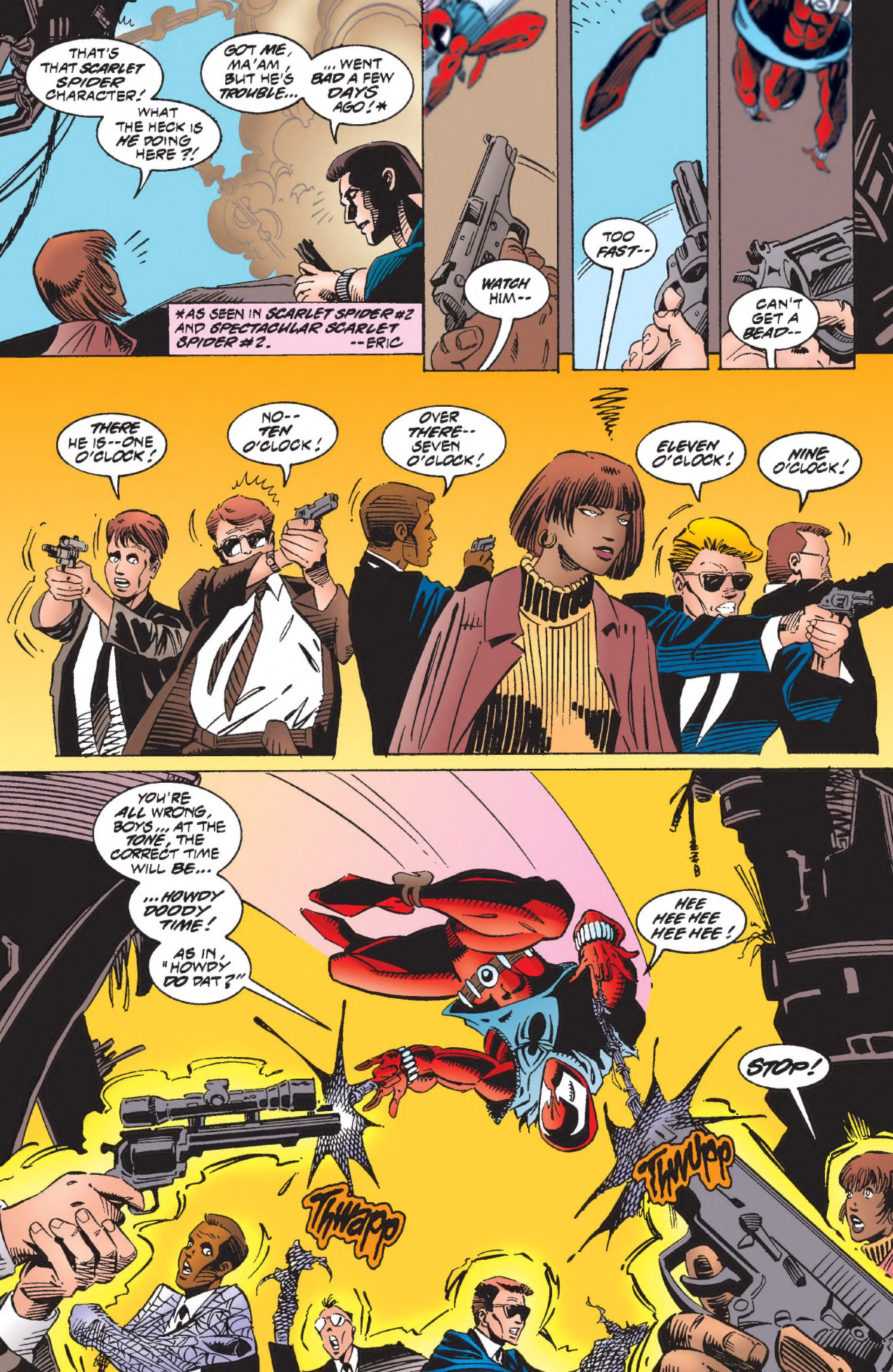
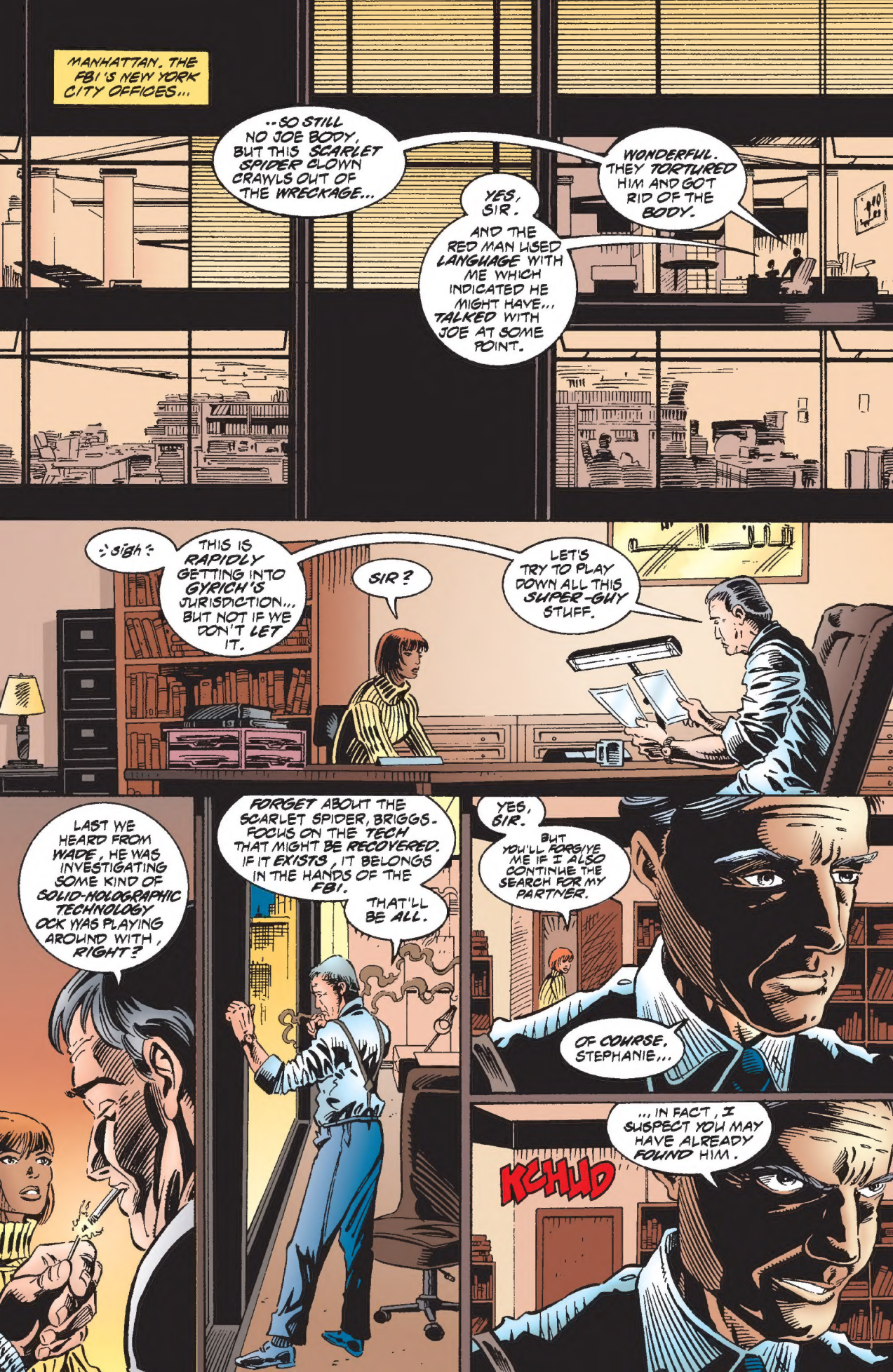

Stan Lee PRESENTS
NIGHTMARE IN SCARLET PART ONE:
RUDE AWAKENING!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
EVAN SKOLNICK - STORY
PARIS KAROUNOS - PENCILS
RANDY EMBERLIN - INKS
STEVE DUTRO - LETTERS
KEVIN TINSLEY - COLORS
MALIBU - COLOR SEPS
ERIC FEIN - EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY - CHIEF

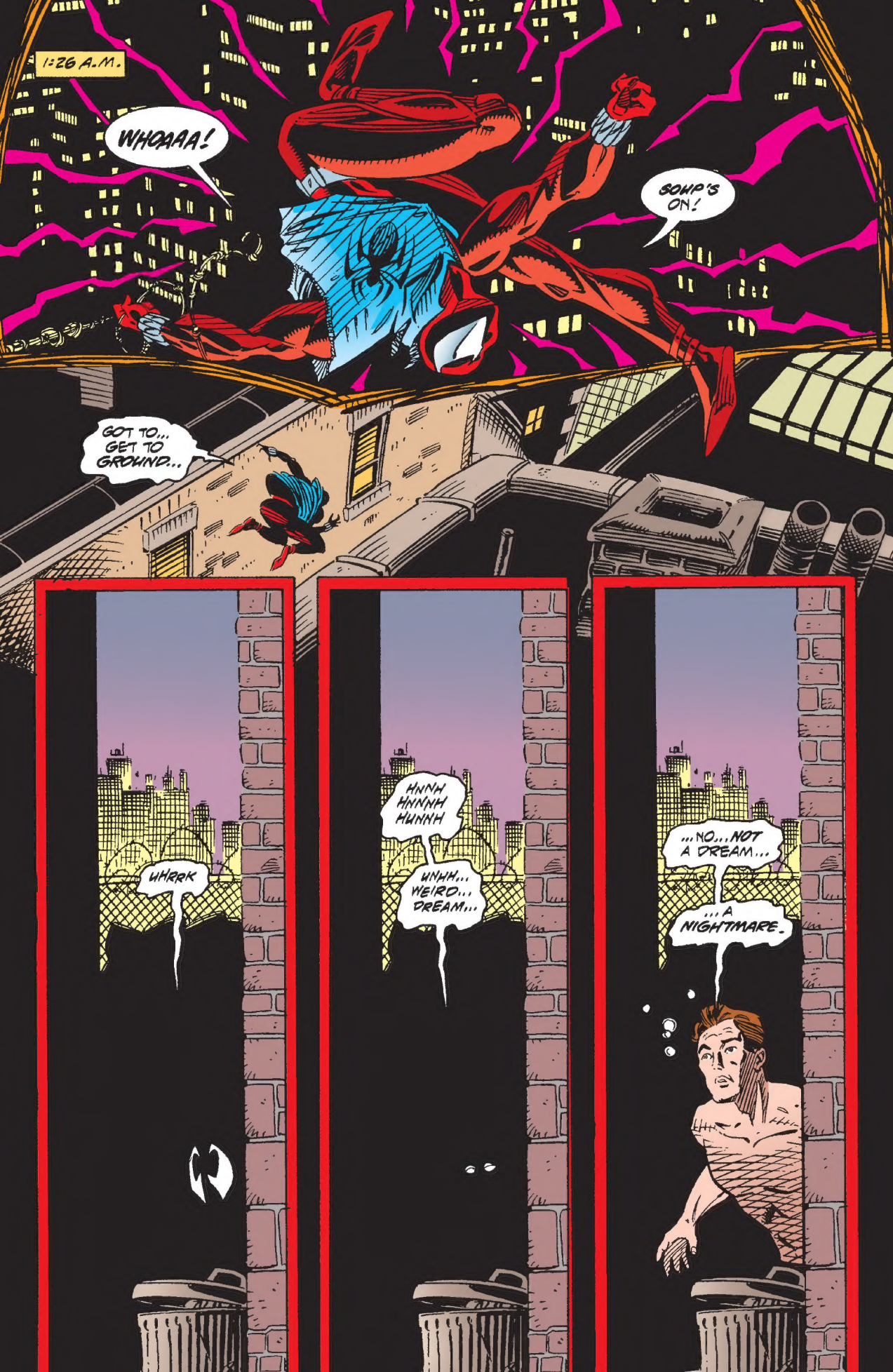

THAT'S THAT SCARLET SPIDER CHARACTER!
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING HERE?!
GOT ME, MA'AM, BUT HE'S TROUBLE...
... WENT BAD A FEW DAYS AGO!*
*AS SEEN IN SCARLET SPIDER #2 AND SPECTACULAR SCARLET SPIDER #2. --ERIC
WATCH HIM--
TOO FAST--
CAN'T GET A BEAD--
THERE HE IS--ONE O'CLOCK!
NO--TEN O'CLOCK!
OVER THERE--SEVEN O'CLOCK!
ELEVEN O'CLOCK!
NINE O'CLOCK!
YOU'RE ALL WRONG, BOYS... AT THE TONE, THE CORRECT TIME WILL BE...
...HOWDY DOODY TIME!
AS IN, "HOWDY DO DAT?"
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
STOP!
THWAPP
THWUPP

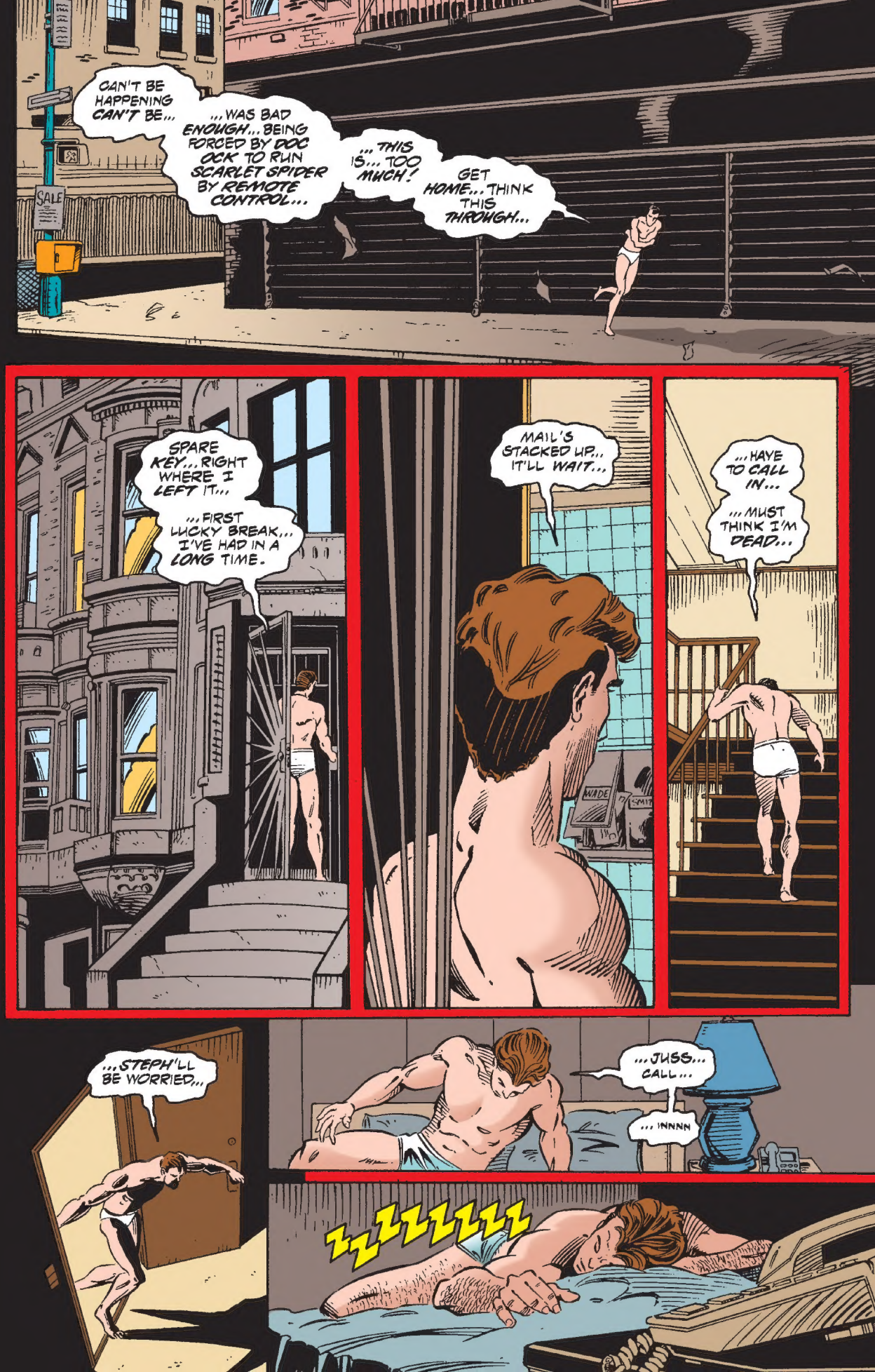
OH, I'M SORRY, OFFICER... I SWEAR I NEVER EVEN SAW THAT "STOP" SIGN...
FBI SPECIAL AGENT STEPHANIE BRIGGS, WEBHEAD... THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.
WE LOST ONE OF OUR UNDER-COVER MEN IN THE COLLAPSE OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS'S HEADQUARTERS.
NAME WAS JOE WADE.
JOE WEIGHED?
OFFHAND, I'D SAY ABOUT 170, 180...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS...
...THOUGH HE WEIGHED A LOT MORE BEFORE JENNY CRAIG HELPED HIM OUT...
...KINDA LIKE YOU, HUH, STEPH?
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEEE!
WHA--HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT--
JUST A MILD GUESS.
THWIP
♪ JOE'S NOT HEAVY... ♪
♪ ...HE'S MY BROTHER... ♪
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THAT CHARACTER BEFORE--HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN ABOUT MY OLD WEIGHT PROBLEM?
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?


MANHATTAN. THE FBI'S NEW YORK CITY OFFICES...
..SO STILL NO JOE BODY, BUT THIS SCARLET SPIDER CLOWN CRAWLS OUT OF THE WRECKAGE...
YES, SIR. AND THE RED MAN USED LANGUAGE WITH ME WHICH INDICATED HE MIGHT HAVE... TALKED WITH JOE AT SOME POINT.
WONDERFUL. THEY TORTURED HIM AND GOT RID OF THE BODY.
:sigh: THIS IS RAPIDLY GETTING INTO GYRICH'S JURISDICTION... BUT NOT IF WE DON'T LET IT.
SIR?
LET'S TRY TO PLAY DOWN ALL THIS SUPER-GUY STUFF.
LAST WE HEARD FROM WADE, HE WAS INVESTIGATING SOME KIND OF SOLID-HOLOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY OCK WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH, RIGHT?
FORGET ABOUT THE SCARLET SPIDER, BRIGGS. FOCUS ON THE TECH THAT MIGHT BE RECOVERED. IF IT EXISTS, IT BELONGS IN THE HANDS OF THE FBI.
THAT'LL BE ALL.
YES, SIR. BUT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I ALSO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR MY PARTNER.
OF COURSE, STEPHANIE...
... IN FACT, I SUSPECT YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY FOUND HIM.
KCHUD

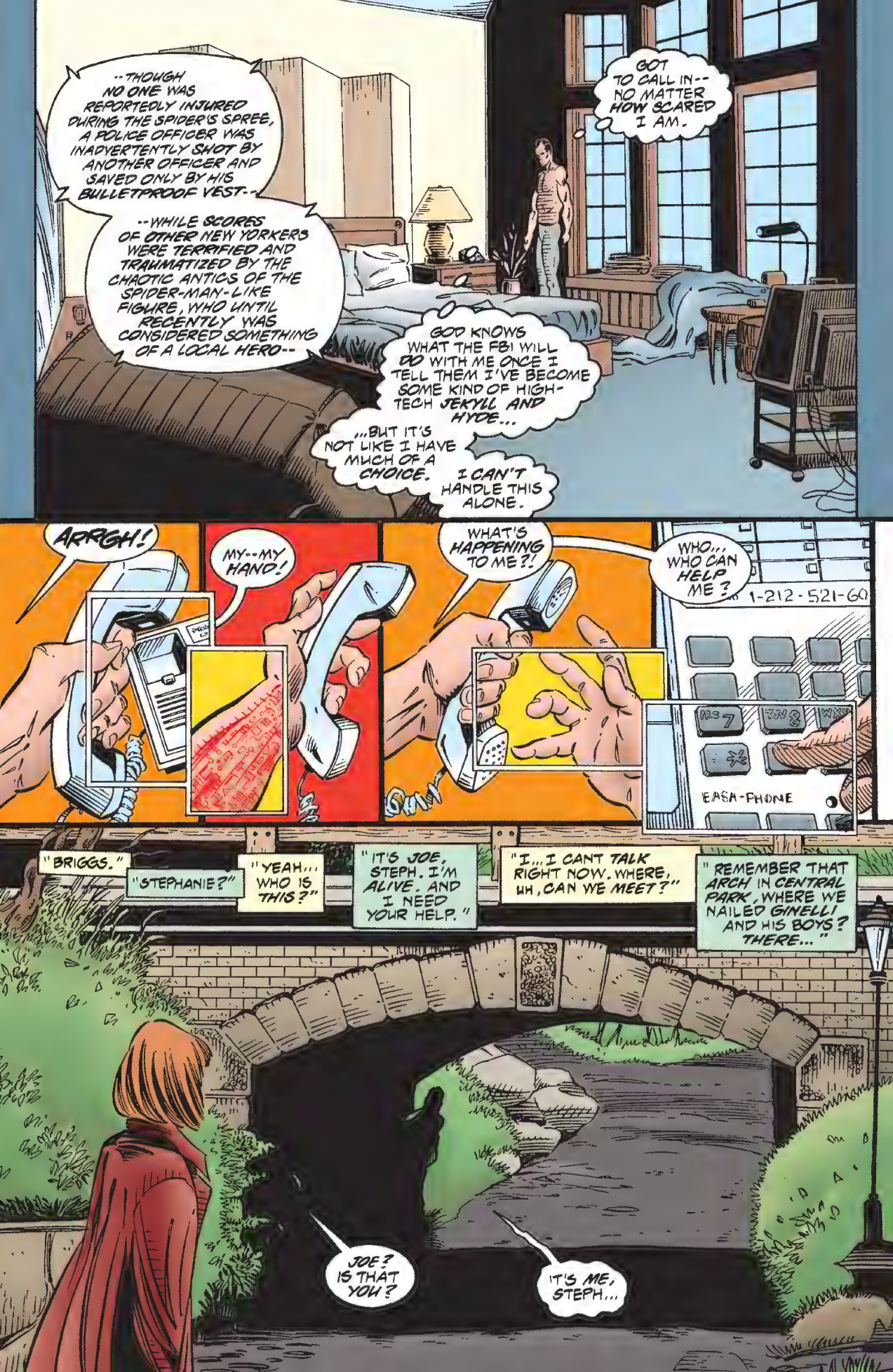
11:43 A.M.
♪ I ♪ WANT TO ♪ WAKE ♪ UP!
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
YEEEP!
MANUEL!
...IN THE CITY... THAT ♪ NEVER SLEEEEPS ♪
MARA! GET HELLP!
♪ ...TO FIND I'M KING OF THE HILL...
AAAA!
♪ ...TOP ♪ OF THE HEAP!
ENJOY THE VIEW, AMIGO!
HEEEEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
THWIP

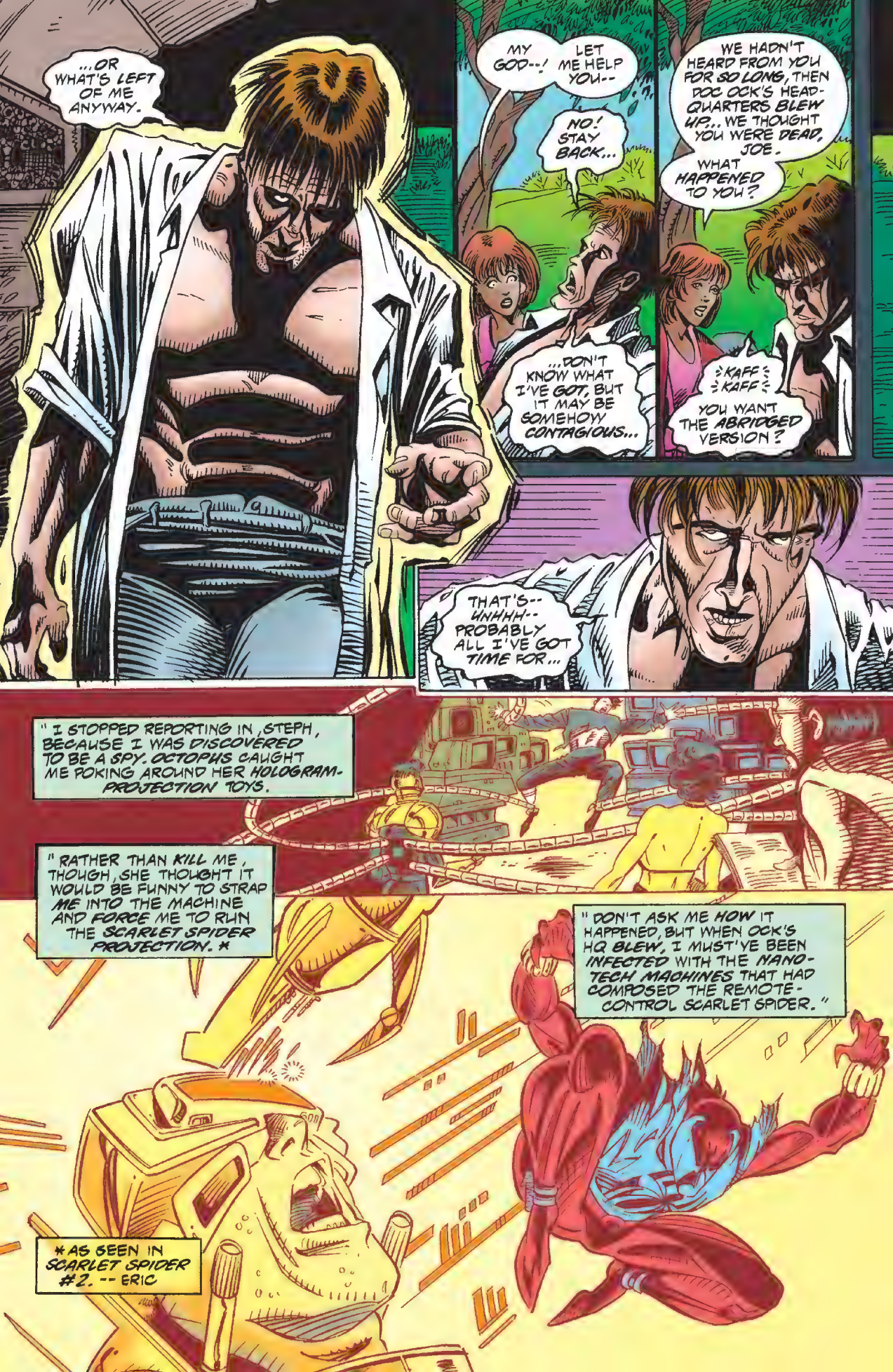
3:12 P.M.
YOU BLASTED MENACE!
I NEVER TRUSTED YOU "HEROES"!
TWO WORDS, BUDDY...
..."BITE" AND "ME."
6:29 P.M.
:tsk tsk:
THESE DAYS, EVERYONE'S AIRING THEIR DIRTY LAUNDRY IN PUBLIC...
...EVEN MAJOR METROPOLITAN BRIDGES!
AIEE!
HELLP! SOMEBODY HELP US!
AAAAA!
10:54 P.M.
SCARLET MAN, SCARLET MAN...
...DOES WHATEVER A... UH...
...SCARLET CAN?
WE GOT 'IM!
POOM
POOM
WATCH THE CROSSFIRE--
HUNFF!
THUPP
HOLY-- YOU OKAY, SAM?
Y-YEAH... THANK GOD... F-FOR MY VEST...


1:26 A.M.
WHOAAA!
SOMP'S ON!
GOT TO... GET TO GROUND...
UHRRK
HNNH HNNNH HUNNH
UNHH... WEIRD... DREAM...
...NO...NOT A DREAM...
...A NIGHTMARE.


CAN'T BE HAPPENING CAN'T BE...
...WAS BAD ENOUGH... BEING FORCED BY DOC OCK TO RUN SCARLET SPIDER BY REMOTE CONTROL...
...THIS IS... TOO MUCH!
GET HOME... THINK THIS THROUGH...
SALE
SPARE KEY... RIGHT WHERE I LEFT IT...
...FIRST LUCKY BREAK... I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.
MAIL'S STACKED UP... IT'LL WAIT...
...HAVE TO CALL IN...
...MUST THINK I'M DEAD...
...STEPH'LL BE WORRIED...
...JUSS... CALL...
...INNNN
ZZZZZZZ

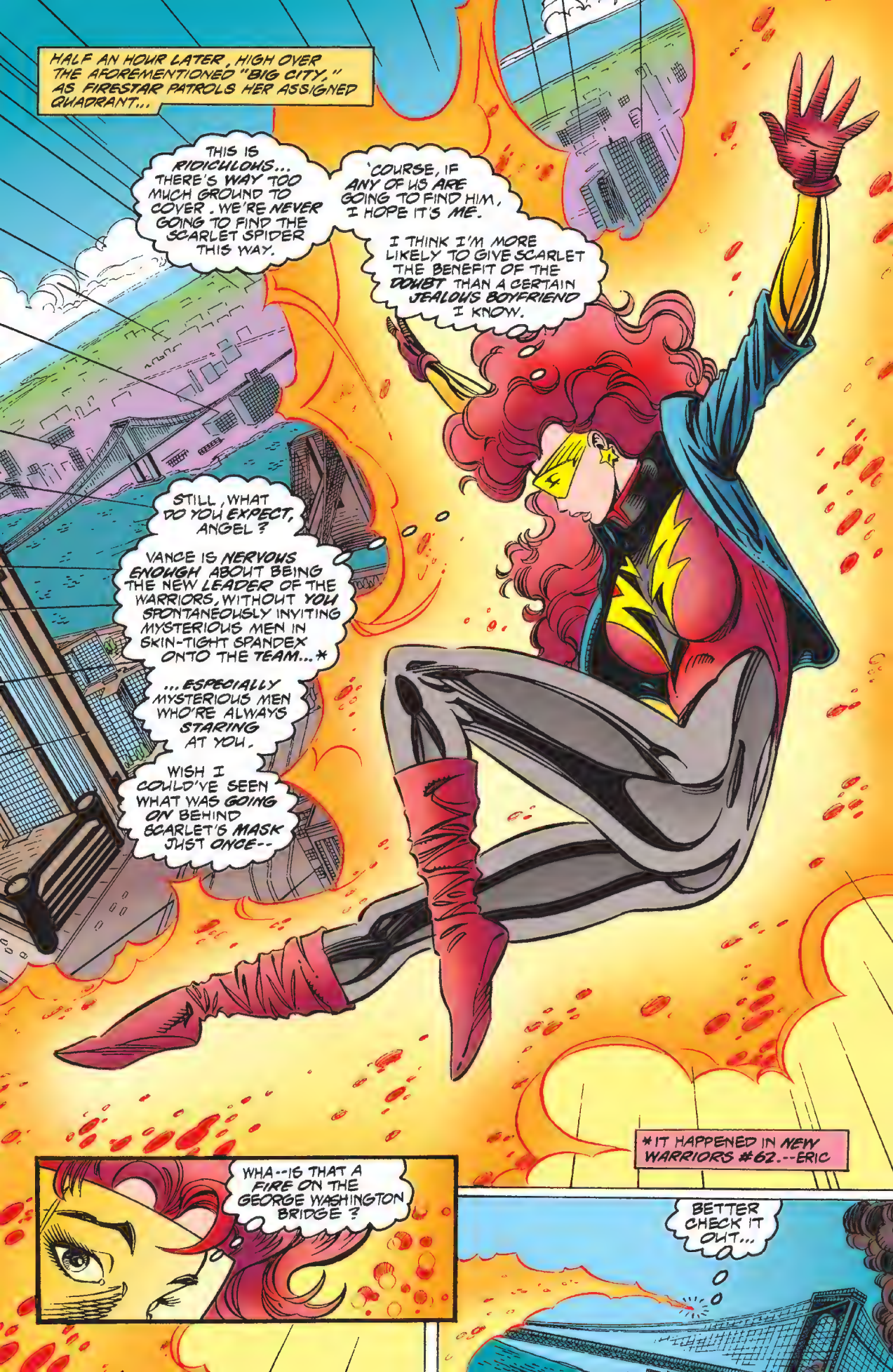
THE NEXT MORNING, HIGH OVER THE EAST SIDE HEADQUARTERS OF THE YOUNG HEROES KNOWN AS THE NEW WARRIORS...
--REALLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE DISCUSSION ABOUT IT, ANGEL.
WE'RE NOT WAITING AROUND ANYMORE FOR THE SCARLET SPIDER TO COME BY AND EXPLAIN HIS RECENT CRIME SPREE.
YOU SAW THE NEWS REPORTS LINKING HIM TO THE WARRIORS... HE'S BESMIRCHING OUR NAME, NOW, IN ADDITION TO HIS OWN.
IT'S TIME TO TRACK HIM DOWN AND FIND OUT JUST WHAT'S GOING ON.
JUSTICE
BUT IT'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF IMPOSTOR, OR MIND-CONTROL, OR SOMETHING, VANCE!
SCARLET WOULD NEVER--
FIRESTAR
POWERHOUSE
TURBO
WELL, SOMEONE'S OUT THERE DOING ALL THIS...
...AND WHOEVER IT IS NEEDS TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH THE NEW WARRIORS!
NOW, HERE'S HOW WE'LL SPLIT UP TO COVER THE MOST TERRITORY...
--RED-GARBED SUPERHUMAN CALLING HIMSELF THE SCARLET SPIDER, MOST RECENTLY SEEN IN THE COMPANY OF THE NEW WARRIORS, CONTINUED HIS RAMPAGE OF VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM YESTERDAY--
OH, MAN...


--THOUGH NO ONE WAS REPORTEDLY INJURED DURING THE SPIDER'S SPREE, A POLICE OFFICER WAS INADVERTENTLY SHOT BY ANOTHER OFFICER AND SAVED ONLY BY HIS BULLETPROOF VEST--
--WHILE SCORES OF OTHER NEW YORKERS WERE TERRIFIED AND TRAUMATIZED BY THE CHAOTIC ANTICS OF THE SPIDER-MAN-LIKE FIGURE, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF A LOCAL HERO--
GOT TO CALL IN-- NO MATTER HOW SCARED I AM.
GOD KNOWS WHAT THE FBI WILL DO WITH ME ONCE I TELL THEM I'VE BECOME SOME KIND OF HIGH-TECH JEKYLL AND HYDE...
...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS ALONE.
ARRGH!
MY--MY HAND!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!
WHO... WHO CAN HELP ME?
1-212-521-60
EASA-PHONE
"BRIGGS."
"STEPHANIE?"
"YEAH... WHO IS THIS?"
"IT'S JOE, STEPH. I'M ALIVE. AND I NEED YOUR HELP."
"I... I CANT TALK RIGHT NOW. WHERE, UH, CAN WE MEET?"
"REMEMBER THAT ARCH IN CENTRAL PARK, WHERE WE NAILED GINELLI AND HIS BOYS? THERE..."
JOE? IS THAT YOU?
IT'S ME, STEPH...


...OR WHAT'S LEFT OF ME ANYWAY.
MY GOD--!
LET ME HELP YOU--
NO! STAY BACK...
...DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT, BUT IT MAY BE SOMEHOW CONTAGIOUS...
WE HADN'T HEARD FROM YOU FOR SO LONG, THEN DOC OCK'S HEAD-QUARTERS BLEW UP.. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, JOE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
KAFF KAFF
YOU WANT THE ABRIDGED VERSION?
THAT'S-- UNHHH-- PROBABLY ALL I'VE GOT TIME FOR...
" I STOPPED REPORTING IN, STEPH, BECAUSE I WAS DISCOVERED TO BE A SPY. OCTOPUS CAUGHT ME POKING AROUND HER HOLOGRAM-PROJECTION TOYS.
" RATHER THAN KILL ME, THOUGH, SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUNNY TO STRAP ME INTO THE MACHINE AND FORCE ME TO RUN THE SCARLET SPIDER PROJECTION. *
" DON'T ASK ME HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT WHEN OCK'S HQ BLEW, I MUST'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH THE NANO-TECH MACHINES THAT HAD COMPOSED THE REMOTE-CONTROL SCARLET SPIDER. "
* AS SEEN IN SCARLET SPIDER #2. -- ERIC

THAT'S WHAT I REALIZED WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING... THE SCARLET SPIDER HOLOGRAM IS "LIVING" INSIDE ME SOMEHOW--ALONG WITH ITS ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING!
THE MANIAC WHO'S BEEN TURNING THE CITY UPSIDE-DOWN LATELY... IT'S ME, STEPH.
THE PAIN BUILDS INSIDE ME, UNTIL I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE... AND THEN HE COMES OUT.
I CAN'T STOP HIM. AND ONCE HE'S THERE, I CAN'T CONTROL HIM.
I'M TURNING MYSELF IN TO YOUR CUSTODY.
WAIT A MINUTE--
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU STAY CLOSE TO ME ONCE STONE AND HIS BOYS'VE GOT THEIR HANDS ON ME.
I DON'T WANT TO END UP AS AN FBI LAB RAT.
JOE, I CAN'T JUST--
YOUR WRISTS!
AHRR!
IT'S-AIGHH--HAPPENING AGAIN, STEPH!
JOE--WAIT!
GOT TO GET AWAY--UNNH--BEFORE I HURT YOU!
PAIN'S--ARRGK--TOO MUCH--CAN'T STOP IT!
PLEASE, STEPH--HELP ME!

FORCE THE PAIN DOWN--
--NNNGG-- FORCE IT-- URNHH--
NOOO!
AHHH, DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!
NO PAIN, NO GAIN, RIGHT?
LOOK AT THIS... ANOTHER PERFECT DAY IN THE BIG CITY.
NOW, WHERE WAS I...?


HALF AN HOUR LATER, HIGH OVER THE AFOREMENTIONED "BIG CITY," AS FIRESTAR PATROLS HER ASSIGNED QUADRANT...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS... THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH GROUND TO COVER. WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND THE SCARLET SPIDER THIS WAY.
'COURSE, IF ANY OF US ARE GOING TO FIND HIM, I HOPE IT'S ME.
I THINK I'M MORE LIKELY TO GIVE SCARLET THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT THAN A CERTAIN JEALOUS BOYFRIEND I KNOW.
STILL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, ANGEL?
VANCE IS NERVOUS ENOUGH ABOUT BEING THE NEW LEADER OF THE WARRIORS, WITHOUT YOU SPONTANEOUSLY INVITING MYSTERIOUS MEN IN SKIN-TIGHT SPANDEX ONTO THE TEAM...*
...ESPECIALLY MYSTERIOUS MEN WHO'RE ALWAYS STARING AT YOU.
WISH I COULD'VE SEEN WHAT WAS GOING ON BEHIND SCARLET'S MASK JUST ONCE--
*IT HAPPENED IN NEW WARRIORS #62.--ERIC
WHA--IS THAT A FIRE ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE?
BETTER CHECK IT OUT...

THIS'LL TEACH YOU IGNORANT COMMUTERS TO TAKE YOUR DAILY IRON SUPPLEMENTS...
...NOW OPEN WIDE!
SCARLET?!
SLOW SPEED
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

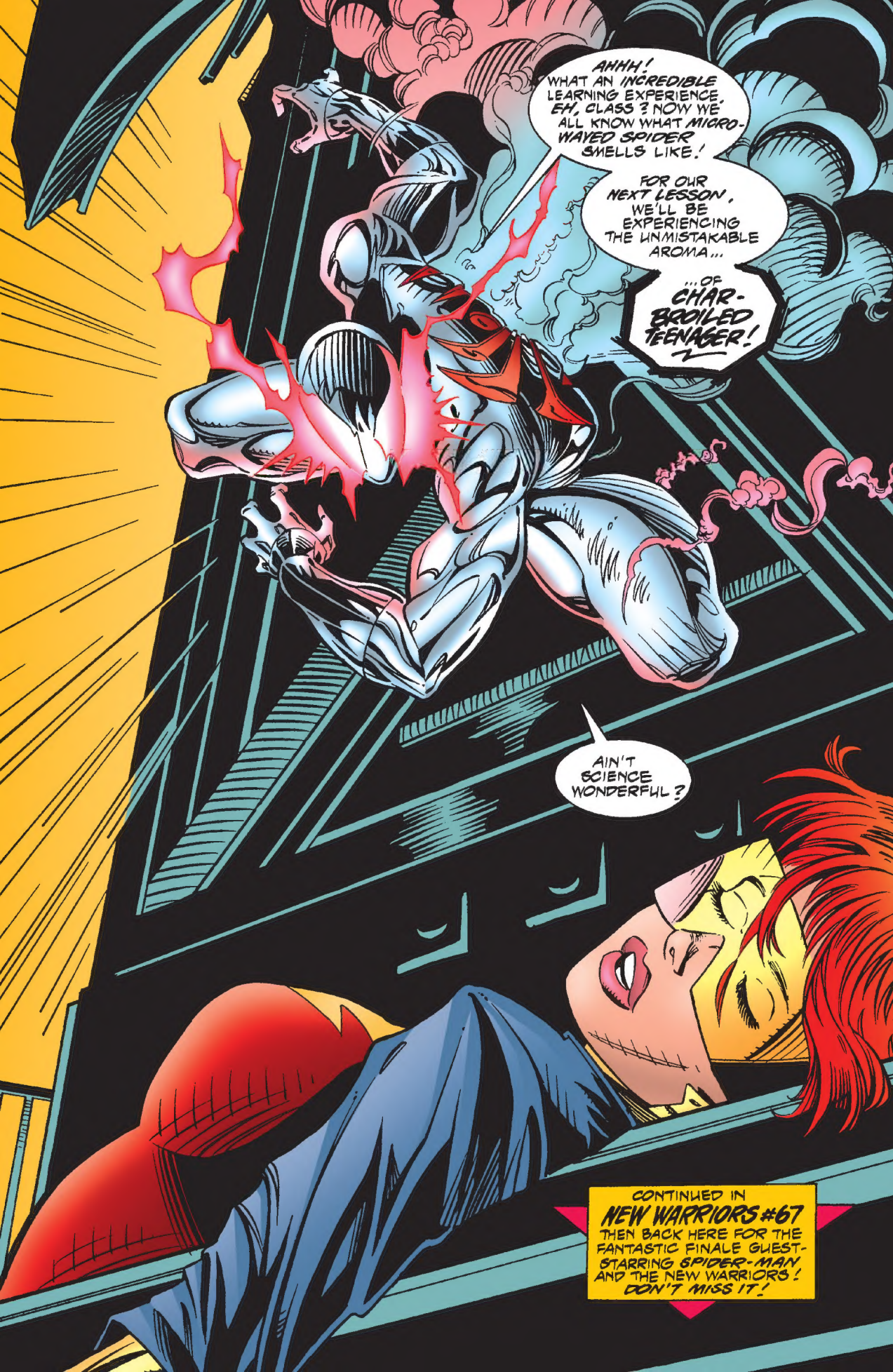
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE!
IT COULDN'T'VE BEEN MORE THAN TEN MINUTES AGO THAT I CALLED DOMINO'S FOR A BABE TO BE DELIVERED...
... AND HERE SHE IS, STEAMING HOT!
BY THE WAY, DID I MENTION I HAVE A TWO-FOR-ONE COUPON?
I-- WHAT?
DID YOU JUST SAY--
COUPON? YEAH, I TOLD THE LADY WHEN I ORDERED THAT I HAD ONE--
OKAY...
YOU--YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME--?
"A GOOD TIME"? YOU KNOW IT, BABE...
...BUT FIRST YOU GET THE TONGUE!
RRMFF!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY NUTS?
WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?

SHRAK
GET OFF!
NOT YET, BUT GIVE ME A MINUTE...
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
YOU'RE DISGUSTING! YOU'RE--
--METAL?
HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YOU'VE TRIED IT, BABY!
ONCE YOU'VE HAD SILVER, YOU NEVER GO BACK!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT THE SCARLET SPIDER I KNEW!
TEKKADA
SO GIVE ME A SECOND TO CALL IN THE REST OF THE WARRIORS...
WARRRRIORS... COME OUT AND PLAAA-HAAAY...
...SO WE CAN ALL BASK IN YOUR SCINTILLATING WIT.

MEANTIME, BUDDY, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK!
OKAY-- I THINK I CAN TALK AND WRECK THE BRIDGE AT THE SAME TIME...
YUP! I SURE CAN!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE THE SCARLET SPIDER?
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?
SORRY, PLEASE PHRASE YOUR QUESTIONS IN THE FORM OF AN ANSWER...
SHAAKK
THWIP
EVERY ONE OF SCARLET'S POWERS-- DUPLICATED EXACTLY!
HOW? WHY?
THWUFF

YEESH! WHAT'D THAT GIRDER EVER DO TO YOU?
REUNCH
SHRAK
NOTHING, "SCARLET"...
...JUST HELPING ME SET YOU UP!
YOU'RE SETTING ME UP? REALLY?
WHO IS SHE? IS SHE CUTE? WHAT'S SHE LIKE? IS SHE EASY? WHEN CAN I MEET HER?
KEEP BABBLING, IMPOSTOR!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HANGING OUT OVER THE WATER, WITH NO BYSTANDERS IN MY LINE OF FIRE...
...I CAN CUT LOOSE ON YOU WITH A MICROWAVE PULSE SO WIDE EVEN YOU CAN'T DODGE IT!
SHAKKT
FFFSSSS
ALMOST LOOKED LIKE HIS COSTUME GOT VAPORIZED, OR SLOUGHED OFF SOMEHOW--
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT'S WITH THE COLORED SMOKE? WHAT DID I DO TO HIM?

AAAAA!
OWEEEEEEE
SOME KIND OF FORCE BEAMS--
--KNOCKED WIND OUT OF ME--
--CAN'T BREATHE--
--WHAT-- IS HE--?


AHHH! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE, EH, CLASS? NOW WE ALL KNOW WHAT MICROWAVED SPIDER SMELLS LIKE!
FOR OUR NEXT LESSON, WE'LL BE EXPERIENCING THE UNMISTAKABLE AROMA...
...OF CHAR-BROILED TEENAGER!
AIN'T SCIENCE WONDERFUL?
CONTINUED IN NEW WARRIORS #67 THEN BACK HERE FOR THE FANTASTIC FINALE GUEST-STARRING SPIDER-MAN AND THE NEW WARRIORS! DON'T MISS IT!